

Remarks

Applicants submit this Preliminary Amendment to add the above claims which reflect the issuance of U.S. Patent No. 6,705,957 ("the '957 patent) on March 16, 2004. The claims of the '957 patent issued after Applicants filed a notice of appeal and appeal brief in response to the Examiner's final rejection of the pending claims. On appeal, Applicants demonstrated the novel aspects of a component of the claimed golf ball and have now added claims directed to the features of the allowed claims of a single, one-piece metal sphere having a thickness of at least 0.02 inches which are carried over into these claims. Other novel features are set forth in the dependent claims.

Accordingly, it is believed that this application is now in condition for immediate allowance, which action is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions, it is requested that she telephone the undersigned to expedite examination of this application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account Number 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



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